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FATAL EXPLOSION



PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / PHOTO EDITOR

A MARYVILLE firefighter walks past the engulfed remains of a house on South Alco Avenue. The explosion occurred at approximately 8:45 p.m. The intensity of the blast was so great that debris landed in neighboring yards.

Two die in explosion; one remains in critical condition at University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City

By Dennis Sharkey and Sean Comer
Co-Editor in Chief and Opinion Editor

At approximately 8:42 p.m., an explosion shattered the Maryville air.

Tim Mackey walked through the door of his home at 128 S. Alco Ave. minutes before the home at 123 S. Alco Ave. exploded in flames. He instantly called 911 and sprinted across the street to find Don Hall walking dazed around the front yard.

Hall told Mackey he'd smelled gas in the house earlier in the day, but planned to call Aquila Thursday to fix the problem. Hall's mother, Lois, and brother, Carroll, died in the blaze.

"The whole house shook," Mackey said. "We got him away from the house and got him to lay down. The house was instantly leveled to the ground."

Mackey found the scene indescribable.

"It was such a loud explosion, I heard people north of town heard it," Mackey said. "How do you explain something like that? There was glass and doors and walls spread everywhere."

Maryville Public Safety workers, both fire and police and ambulances arrived within minutes. Police kept persistent approaching

onlookers at bay as firefighters beat back the flames. Police also threatened to arrest several onlookers who continued to sneak in for a closer look. Elsewhere, Public Safety closed off traffic within approximately a one-block radius.

Public Safety Director Keith Wood addressed media near the scene of the explosion. Doctors at St. Francis Hospital treated Hall and LifeNet transported him to the burn ward unit at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

Firefighters recovered the remains of Lois, who was in her 90s and lived at the location with her two sons. Workers later found the body of the survivor's brother, Carroll, shortly after midnight Thursday.

In closer proximity, homes near the blast sustained both interior and exterior damage. The blast shattered windows of houses across the street, and other neighbors reported objects falling from shaking walls.

Reports indicate that workers recovered an unscathed item from the scene: a picture of Jesus Christ blown into a neighboring yard.

Residents across Maryville felt the force of the blow.

Aquila and Missouri fire marshals plan to investigate a potential gas leak in the home Thursday.

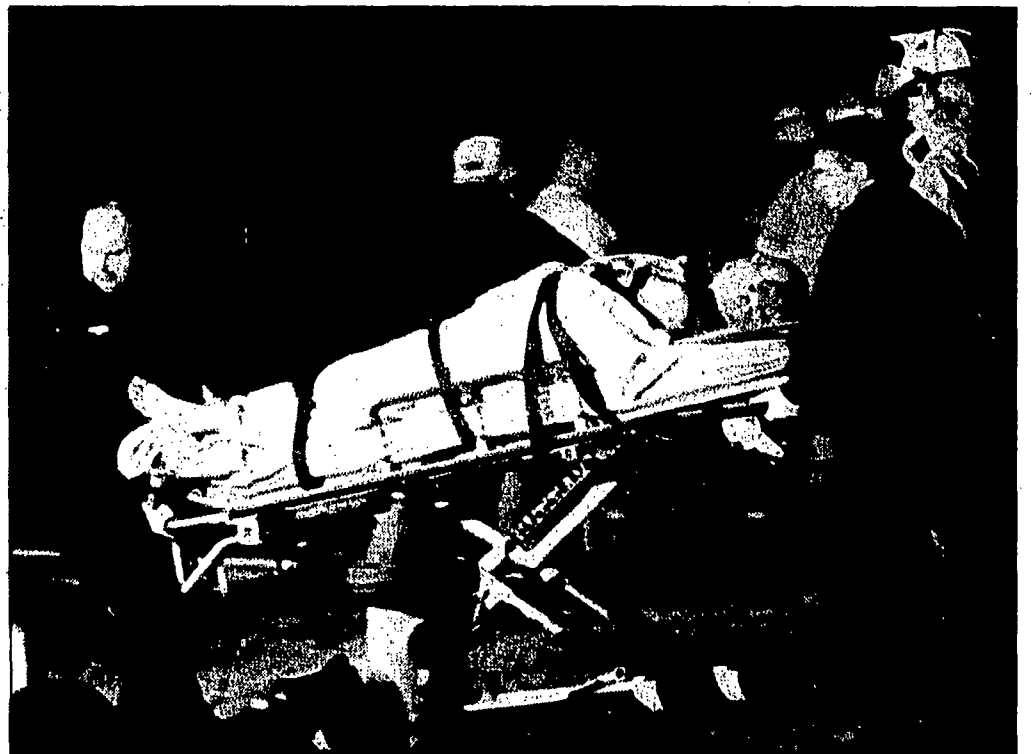


PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / PHOTO EDITOR

PARAMEDICS carry away a man who was injured in the explosion late last night. Two fatalities have been confirmed as of press time.

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Accident claims life, another man injured

By Dennis Sharkey
Co-Editor in Chief

One Maryville man died and another man was seriously injured in a one-car accident Wednesday morning on U.S. Highway 71 at U.S. Highway 59—two miles north of Savannah.

The Andrew County coroner pronounced Daniel Bowles, 25, of Maryville, dead at the scene.

Ronald Darnell, 48, also of Maryville, was transported by ambulance to Heartland Regional Hospital in St. Joseph. He remained in critical

condition as of Wednesday night.

According to the accident report, the Missouri Highway Patrol received a call regarding the accident at 6:24 a.m. Wednesday.

The report said the vehicle driven by Bowles encountered an icy patch on the highway overpass. The vehicle drove off of the right side of the roadway and then returned to the road before going off of the left side. The vehicle then slammed into a guardrail and into the north bound lanes of Highway 71 before overturning and coming to a rest on the passenger side.

Autopsy report reveals student died of diabetic shock; not suicide as presumed

By Stephanie Stangl
Co-Editor in Chief

Sitting in the back row at the funeral, a woman she barely knew approached her knowing exactly who she was.

Though she wasn't sure how, the older woman knew she was the woman her son always talked about fondly—the woman he referred to as his best friend.

Northwest junior Carissa Gianino found out the man who she had befriended since high school, and who had always gone out of his way to protect her, also

loved her.

And now that same man lay dead in the coffin at the front of the room.

Campus safety found Northwest senior Shawn Bussey, 21, in his Franken Hall residence hall room after succumbing to diabetic shock—two days post-mortem.

Diabetic shock results from too much insulin in the body—causing a rapid reduction in the level of sugar in the blood causing the brain cells to suffer.

"Basically, his blood sugar got out of control, and that put

him into what they call diabetic shock," Nodaway County Coroner Vincent Shelby said in a Northwest press release.

Bussey most likely was not maintaining his diabetes by lack of exercise, inadequate diet or not taking his insulin or medication spiraling him into diabetic shock, Kathie Hurayt, nurse practitioner at St. Francis, said.

Early symptoms of diabetic shock include extreme hunger or thirst, blurred vision and shakiness.

see **AUTOPSY** on A6

Students to participate in service day

By Evan Young
University News Editor

While some students will spend their Martin Luther King Jr. Day sleeping in, others will be carrying on King's legacy by upholding the values for which he gave his life.

Approximately 200 students from Northwest and the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing, in cooperation with the Northwest Volunteer Center, will be painting, raking yards, trimming bushes and doing other odd jobs for Maryville senior citizens.

The center is partnering with a number of local organizations, including the Ministry Center, Headstart, the Children and Family Center, the Noyes Home for Children and the Nodaway County Historical Society. Students will also travel to these organizations to help clean their facilities.

The students will work from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a chili supper at 5 p.m. in the Union Ballroom to honor their service. The supper is also open to all the senior citizens they helped.

Angela Perkins, coordinator of volunteerism and service learning, said one of

the goals of the community service project is to build relationships between students and senior citizens.

"It is our hope that students will be able to interact and converse with the elderly while working in their homes," Perkins said. "It is this type of connection that makes the service valuable for all involved."

Perkins said there are many first-time volunteers participating in the MLK Day project and hopes it will not be their last.

"Hopefully, students who don't normally volunteer will get into the volunteering mode that comes

out of this project," she said. "We all have an obligation to our community."

Junior Sauda Holman, president of the Allegiance of Black Collegians, one of the several organizations in charge of planning the project, said this event sheds new light on the current view some people take on MLK Day.

"It's not right for us to think of it as just a day off. Sometimes you benefit from helping others," Holman said. "Martin Luther King Jr. thought about others more than he thought about himself. We should, too and continue his dream."



PHOTO BY KELLIE WHITE / ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

ARTHUR DELEE expressed his concern that students have not received quality services since costs were cut by Aramark.

Concern expressed over Aramark issue

By Dennis Sharkey
Co-Editor in Chief

The Northwest Support Staff Council will release a survey next month to Environmental Services employees to determine morale among employees and feelings about Aramark, who currently oversees and manages that department.

Northwest employees have had mixed emotions about Aramark's take over, most negative.

Those feelings surfaced last summer when employees were told they had the choice to become Aramark employees after Sept. 1, 2005. They were also told that if they did not they would lose some benefits and would not be able to advance in positions.

Arthur DeLee, a carpenter in Environmental Services, put an initial four-question survey together.

The questions dealt with whether or not Aramark was a good fit for Northwest, or whether or not the University is better served managing Environmental Services itself.

Originally, Northwest signed a 10-year deal with Service Master in 1987, and another deal through 2006 in 1997. Aramark bought out Service Master and the contract with the University in 2001.

DeLee said at the council's monthly meeting Tuesday that since Aramark took over, the quality provided to the students has gone down.

He points to things like taking paper towels out of the dorm bathrooms and limiting the amount of cleaning chemicals that can be purchased. He also pointed to sanitation issues and re-using cleaning gloves.

"It bothers me that we're

depriving our students that we serve with the quality; you can see it with the glove issue," DeLee told the council. "Something has to be done."

Although most of the council agreed the survey was a good idea, not everyone agreed with all of the questions or the wording.

Another concern raised by the council was actual cost to manage the campus without a management service. The main concern of the council centered around the fact that if you get rid of Aramark management, then you also get rid of all the services and equipment that Aramark provides. Council members agreed that a feasible solution would have to be in place before completely uprooting the current system.

Communication and knowing who to seek out for a problem was also identified as a problem between Northwest employees and Aramark. Some custodial staff said they did not know exactly who to go to in a problem situation.

Susan Colt, secretary for the Agriculture department, is one of the members responsible for revising the survey questions. She said ultimately Northwest is responsible and someone at the University level needs to be at the top of the chain of command for those issues. She said it works for her department and probably would work for environmental services as well.

"If I have a problem in my department I know where to go," Colt told the council. "If that person doesn't take care of it, then I know where to go to next."

The council will meet again in February to approve the survey and decide what the next step is.

Two Centennial events planned for January

By Evan Young
University News Editor

Northwest continues its birthday festivities this month with two Centennial events.

First is the music department's prism concert, "A Celebration of 100 Years of History and Traditions," at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Mary Linn Performing Arts Center. It is free and open to the public.

The concert will feature the world premiere performance of "Traditions and Transitions," a specially commissioned Centennial anthem composed by Paul Brink, professor of theory and composition at the University of Louisville School of Music.

Northwest's Wind Symphony and Tower Choir will perform the anthem. In a Northwest news release, Carl Kling, assistant professor of instrumental music, said the piece is a celebration of the school's many achievements throughout the past 100 years.

"I think this music illustrates that the whole Centennial celebration reflects the idea that one generation builds on the accomplishments of the

last," Kling said.

Stephen Town, professor of music and Tower Choir director, said "Traditions" is a very unusual piece, especially the lyrics, written by Dee Wade, a noted inspirational writer also from Louisville.

"The text is very instrumental, like the music, which is unlike anything the (choir) students have ever done," Town said.

Also included in the performance are two pieces composed by Northwest faculty. William Richardson, assistant professor of music, composed the first, "Centennial Fanfare," to be performed by the trumpet ensemble. The second, "Golden Anniversary March," was composed for Northwest's 50th anniversary by former director of bands Earl Moss, and will be performed by the wind symphony.

The program will also feature the Celebration Show Choir, Northwest Orchestra, Northwest Jazz Ensemble, a trumpet ensemble and two woodwind quartets.

Northwest continues its Centennial lecture series this month with alumnus Bill Price at 8 p.m. on

Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Price, chairman and CEO of Empower Media Marketing of Cincinnati, will present "Communications Explosion...Big Bucks for Bearcats!," a program which teaches students how to take advantage of fun and exciting career opportunities in the marketing and advertising industries.

Price is a 1960 Northwest graduate with a bachelor's degree in speech/drama.

The Department of Communication, Theatre and Languages nominated Price as a lecturer candidate. Theo Ross, department chair, said Price was chosen because of his favorable reception two years ago when he participated in Northwest's "Professor for a Day."

"He was such a positive influence. The students responded well to him," Ross said. "Bill has a great inspirational message."

Price's presentation is free and open to the public. In addition, attendees will have the chance to enter a drawing for a free Apple iPod.

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Leadership Maryville program in progress

By Jessica Schmidt
Copy Editor

In 1986 the Maryville Chamber of Commerce started a program to educate citizens on local organizations, government and businesses.

Today, Leadership Maryville is an annual program in its 20th year and celebrates over 300 graduates.

On Monday, Jan. 9, the group of 13 met for the first time. Three recent graduates of the program Allison Strong, Karen From and Shannon Bean, lead the program and take turns directing the 13-week class.

The class typically meets once a week on Monday.

Strong said that the program helps participants learn more about the current events concerning Maryville.

"It is important to always



PHOTO BY MIKE DYE / PHOTO EDITOR

MEMBERS OF the Leadership Maryville program gather in the back of the Chamber of Commerce building on Monday night. The program was created in 1986, and the purpose is to inform the residents of Maryville of local issues.

be aware of what is going on in your community," Strong said. "It is good to see how the community is progressing and changing, and working with the program is an opportunity to position myself as a leader."

This year's participants

are a broad range of long-time community members and new residents to Maryville.

Some long-time community members such as Elaine Decker, joined the program to learn more about community projects.

"We can always learn more about our community," Decker said. "I would like to learn more about the downtown revitalization, and I'd just like to stay-up-to speed with all of the new things."

One of the highlights of the program is a trip to Jefferson City Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Maryville newcomer, Terrance Nickle, is most looking forward to this part of the program.

"I've been visiting the community for 29 years and I thought this would be a good opportunity to learn more about it," Nickle said.

Before graduating from the program, the participants will use their skills learned during the classes to plan and organize a hometown tour and a community-based activity or action.

For more information on Leadership Maryville, please call Allison Strong at 562-7933.

Local grocer helps stop residents from being victims of lottery fraud

By Brett Barger
Chief Reporter

Two Northwest Missouri residents were recently the victims of a scam after receiving notifications that they won thousands of dollars in a lottery.

According to Keith Wood, director of Maryville Public Safety, the victims were contacted by mail—similar to any type of scam.

"Typically, the winners of the sweepstakes will be asked to send money to get their money," Wood said. "It's usually to send a small amount, to get your hundred thousand."

For this particular incident, the victims were asked to deposit the check into their account, and then forward that money via Western Union. Hy-Vee stopped the residents before they sent the money citing the scam.

The scam is currently under federal investigation through an American, Canadian task force.

Wood sees the possibility of convictions unlikely.

"A lot of these scams go through Canada. The thieves are smart enough

to know that if you cross international jurisdictions, it complicates the investigation," he said.

Banks are also prepared to stop scams before it gets to their customers.

Diane Miller, vice president of Citizens Bank and Trust, says it's important to remember an old saying, "If it's too good to be true it probably is."

Miller also feels that education is essential to preventing scams from affecting customers.

"We've had several situations and the customer usually comes in and say 'I've received this, I'm afraid it's too good to be true,' and usually we can look at that and tell if it's a scam or not."

According to the www.consumer.gov, a website maintained by the Federal Trade Commission, 6,398 complaints were filed by Missourians in 2004.

Prize sweepstakes frauds were fifth on the list with 477 complaints in 2004.

Anyone who feels they have been the victim of a scam are urged to contact Maryville Public Safety at (660) 562-3209.

CITY BRIEFS

Country Kitchen and Long John Silver's out; Julio's comes to town

Julio's Restaurant will move into the building previously occupied by Country Kitchen at 2805 S. Main St., Maryville.

Construction is currently underway on the building. Julio's, the casual dining Mexican restaurant, origi-

nated in Omaha, Neb., has three locations in the Omaha area.

Long John Silver's, located at 1005 S. Main St., will not re-open in Maryville. The building caught fire in December due to an accident in the kitchen.

scanner recently purchased by the hospital. St. Francis is one of the first medical facilities in the area to offer the system.

The LightSpeed CT scan-

ner will cut minutes off of exam time by capturing multiple wafer-thin images of a patient's anatomy within seconds.

Small business conference scheduled

Two local small business development conferences will be held in January by Mo-Kan Development Inc. to help residents with available loan programs.

The first conference will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at The Hangar, 1602 S. Main St. in Maryville.

The second will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 25,

at the Velma Houts University Extension building at U.S. Highway 136 in Rock Port, Mo.

For reservations to the Maryville conference, call Nodaway County Economic Development at (660) 582-4490; for the Rock Port conference call the Atchison County Development Corporation at (660) 744-6562.

Program increasing awareness for good health begins

Maryville Hy-Vee and St. Francis Hospital are teaming to produce the "Show-Me Shape Up Program." On Jan. 18, representatives from the state of Missouri and St. Francis will attend the promotion at Hy-Vee to

help increase awareness for good health.

All community members are encouraged to sign-up for the physical and/or weight-loss aspects of the program, at the grocery store.

St. Francis improving facilities

Maryville residents are invited to attend an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sun-

day, Jan. 15, at St. Francis Hospital, to view the LightSpeed computed tomography (CT)

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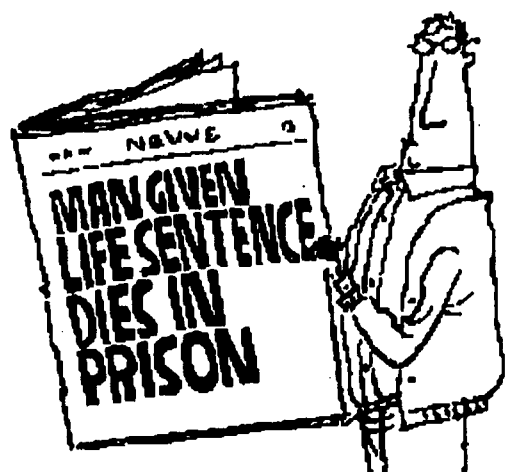
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Students should have financial plan

It is officially the second week into the New Year and I have already broken my resolution of eating healthy. But I have managed to keep a promise that I made to myself last fall, to be frugal on where my money goes.

Expenses have expanded over the last year for the economy. For the Maryville community and more specifically, the Northwest campus, these expenses have increased within the last two weeks.

Students need to have a plan of action if they don't already. Open a savings account, get a job, apply for scholarships, grants, loans, anything that will help you through college and get ready for the real world.

I will be honest, when I saw the increases in tuition and fees on my semester bill, the

That's the facts



Jessica Lavicky
Managing Editor

first person I threw the blame at was the University. When I got my Aquila bill, I instantly cursed the gas companies.

I can only blame myself. My plan of action isn't fool proof. The words of my mother are haunting me, 'spend your money frugally.'

Money can be saved by not eating out as much or by cutting down on excessive shopping. Walk across town or campus instead of driving the two blocks.

Earlier this week, I read an article from The Kansas City Star concerning a proposal about all state colleges in Missouri getting a two percent funding increase instead of the 10 percent decreased proposal warning we were given prior.

Does this mean that the increasing tuition will slow

down? We can only dream.

What about the natural gas prices? I know I can vouch for a couple of my co-workers, gas prices sure take our breath away by nearly doubling in price since last month.

Tuition. Utilities. Gas prices. Even the price of a bottle of Diet Coke at the Casey's General Store went up 17 cents to \$1.52.

The financial situation shouldn't have felt as surprising. The University, the state, even the representatives in Washington D.C. have been talking about the increase in prices and unstable economy.

My point is that students need to be aware of what is going on around them. They need to be prepared not only for what is going on in the world right now, but also what effect it will have in the future, unless you are okay with 'barely getting by.'

Don't ever count on anyone

else, including the University, to come through. Not saying they won't, they just might not be able to provide at the time.

Take for example, the fact graduation is less than four months away, I should have senioritis and be eager to complete my studies.

No, instead, I am making sure I have the gas bill paid and I still have money left for groceries. The refund I was banking on for expenses shorted me \$1,200. You can see why I was put on edge.

Even though I have been putting money into my savings account since I started high school, I applied for all the available scholarships and I exceeded over my student loan availability. So, I went to the next option, find a job...or three.

I now have no fears, my revised plan is working. If not, my father will be taking the cattle to the market soon.

OURVIEW

Accuracy Paramount

Most people went to bed that night thinking 12 of the 13 miners were alive and well.

The last vision most of us witnessed were family members rejoicing their loved ones had beaten the odds and survived the explosion that trapped them.

Bells at a local Baptist church resounded in celebration as family members screamed in joy.

Three hours later, after most of us were tucked away dreaming, the families of the miners were simultaneously catapulted into a nightmare they wished were only a dream.

There had been a mistake—a miscommunication of some sort.

Twelve miners were in fact dead, and one remained in critical condition, the head of the International Coal Group proclaimed.

This unconfirmed report spread like wild fire and few television stations and newspapers stopped to double-check facts. Most got so caught up in being the first to break the news that they disregarded one of the basic tenants of journalism: accuracy.

And few chose to stop the presses.

This was a day that we at *The Northwest Missourian* were ashamed of the profession we love so much. We were ashamed for one of the first times to be called a journalist.

Not only did so many

media outlets push aside the values and building blocks that journalism was built upon, but there also seemed to be little in terms of remorse from some.

"There was no apology. There was nothing," Nick Helms, son of miner Terry Helms, one of the dead, told the Associated Press.

But some did it right. When the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette went to press that night, the front headline read "Miracle at Sago: 12 Miners Alive." After printing thousands of these, Executive Editor David Shribman made a choice that other papers should have emulated.

He stopped the presses.

The headline now read "Joy to Horror: 12 Dead at Mine," and they only finished printing the paper an hour later than normal.

We think residents receiving their paper an hour later is a fair trade off for accuracy.

Ethics on deadline is something we all struggle with, it's just part of the job. We concede that breaking news is an exciting part of the journalism world, but before reporters or editors run with a story and get caught up in the frenzy of competing with other outlets, let's make sure what we are breaking is accurate.

Each body being pulled out of the mine serves as 12 nauseating reminders of how important responsible journalism truly is.

Pell Grants borrow from everyone; miss needs of some

I live for that magical moment every father experiences when that little boy or girl asks that one precious question: "Daddy, where do Pell Grants come from?"

For sheer honesty, that should blow the puberty talk out of the water.

Layer-number-one of that issue says that Pell Grants come from the Federal Department of Education, vary in size according to the financial need of the applicant's family, and never need to be repaid. They receive funding through federal tax revenue, and they don't discriminate based on nationality, minority status, race, or sex.

Then comes the other half of the story.

Jagged Edges



Sean Comer
Opinion Editor

The Federal Pell Grant program receives funding—or, for the sake of honesty, takes funding—from everybody. Even parents who may never need a Pell Grant for Junior send tax dollars to a pool to fund someone else's education. What's more, still other families sink in their own respective tax dollars, in the hopes that those same grants will one day cover college costs if loans should ever fall short. But sometimes circumstances intervene, and Mom and Dad can't make ends meet and still afford to pay the difference.

And through this magnificent boon of a fair, thorough, intelligently designed program, Mom and Dad can only smile their weary smiles when some faceless bureaucrat tells them "But look how much money you made! Your need doesn't measure up to that of others. I see no indication of financial difficulty—in fact, it looks like you've made

enough to contribute thousands of tax dollars to our grants to help others attend college. No Pell Grant for you! Next!"

Ain't that America: you can pay in, but you may never cash in.

Without those grants, millions would've likely never set foot on a college campus. However, a flawed black-and-white, intangibles-bedamned system of assessing "need" means the people barely on one side of the "qualified/denied" line in the sand will foot the bill for someone else instead of their own. You can search your FAFSA; you won't find a blank in which to insert intangibles that don't appear on an IRS 1040 form or a W-4.

But they have a rubber stamp at the Department of Education for people who don't qualify as "wealthy," can't be called "poor," but don't benefit from the grants they hoped, through their tax-dollar contribution, would fund their children's tuition: "screwed."

At least a practical reason exists to rationalize these borderline families' twist-o'-the-arm contributions; they someday might qualify for a grant when they need it—*maybe*. But the new American Way rears its ugly, bitter head on the "wealthy," as well: nobody cares that they may as well foot double the bill by paying for their kids to attend school out of pocket, on top of their tax dollars paying for a Pell Grant for somebody else.

The highest ten percent who earn the most annually also account for nearly a majority of the nation's tax revenue. They're contributing the most money of anyone, but not by choice—in America, we take from those who have more, and justify thievery by telling them "you can afford it." Can't we just once let some people keep what they earn, without feeling that simply by living in the same world, we should be entitled to a cut?

Yes, Pell Grants make college a

reality rather than a dream for plenty of families. But there's no money fairy leaving those millions of dollars in the vault annually. As a matter of fact, according to www.whitehouse.gov the Pell Grant Program runs annually into the red and must borrow from the next year's budget to even itself out. So the families filling the canyon between the middle and upper-classes thanklessly bear the greatest load of a money-pit program that one class pays for but never benefits from, and another doesn't need, but still has to pay for it.

Hey, novel concept: let people keep the thousands they instead pour down the drain to pay for somebody else's tuition, and people might not need as many grants. But who am I kidding? Self-reliance? Making your own way? Saving money for the future as opposed to blowing it or paying higher taxes for more programs?

What country did I think I was living in, anyway?

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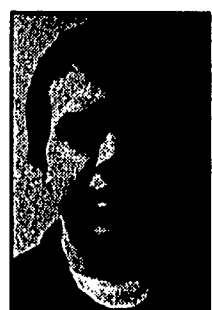
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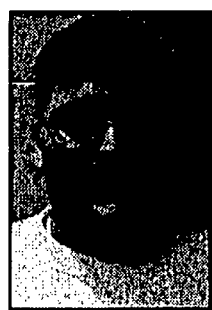
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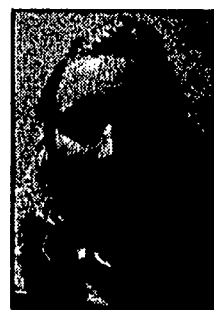
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"Twelve pairs of Christmas socks from my grandma,"
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Nov. 26

■ **Lois J. Otto**, 81, Maryville; **Vickie J. Kling**, 55, Maryville, Buchanan & First.

Jan. 3

■ **David D. James**, 20, Maryville, failure to appear, 200 block East Third.

■ **Aubre K. Morin**, Maryville, was struck by an unknown driver, 1400 block Country Club Drive.

Jan. 4

■ **J.W. Dannar, Jr.**, 61, Ravenwood, Mo., failure to appear, 1000 block East First.

Jan. 5

■ Ongoing investigation of 1st degree burglary, 800 block North Walnut.

■ **Melanie R. Schultz**, 31, O'Fallon, Mo., struck **Michael D. Burch**, 50, Ravenwood, Mo. Schultz cited for failure to yield, 136 & Wilson Industrial Road.

■ **Kyle C. King**, 15, Maryville, struck **Mary L. Reardon**, 82, Maryville. King cited for failure to yield and no driver's license.

Jan. 6

■ **Jason D. Perdue**, 22, Maryville, DWI, illegal turn, open container in vehicle; **Jarrett A. DePriest**, 22, Maryville, open container in vehicle, 400 block North Main.

■ **Michael Roberts**, Skidmore, Mo., was struck by an unknown vehicle, Business Highway 71 South.

■ **Herbert J. Wade**, 19, Skidmore, Mo., struck an unknown vehicle, 100 block West Third.

■ **Bradley K. Porter**, 21, Hopkins, Mo., improper registration, 900 block North Main.

■ 2005 Black Mustang towed, 300 block North Market.

Jan. 7

■ **Zachary R. Johnston**, 21, Hannibal, Mo., DWI, 600 block South Buchanan.

■ **David R. Million, Jr.**, 33, Skidmore, Mo., driving while license revoked, failure to maintain financial responsibility, 100 block West Seventh.

■ **Creston D. Dreher**, 19, Savannah, Mo., MIP, equipment violation, open container in vehicle, profanity in public, disorderly conduct, 500 block North Market.

■ **Kaylyn D. Kling**, 18, Maryville, struck **Kathryn J. Schieber**, 54, Maryville. Kling cited for failure to yield, West First & North Munn Avenue.

Jan. 8

■ **Joshua J. Rhodd**, 23,

Lincoln, Neb., C&I, DWI, possession of 35 grams or less of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia; **Brandon M. Hunzeker**, 19, Maryville, MIP, 500 block North Main.

■ **John E. Goodin**, Maryville; **Brandon L. Parsons**, Maryville; **Mitchell G. Reger**, Maryville, peace disturbance, 200 block West Eighth.

■ **Tara L. Dean**, 19, Maryville, DWI, MIP, failure to stop at a steady red light, 100 block South Market.

■ Ongoing investigation of larceny/stealing, 400 block South Laura.

■ **Stephanie A. Marsh**, 40, Burlington Junction, Mo., Business Highway 71 North & East 16th.

■ 2001 tan Corolla, 2001 white Mustang towed, 300 block North Market.

Jan. 9

■ Stolen/lost brown wallet, 1200 block South Main.

■ Larceny/stealing, file folders with graphics, 100 block South Buchanan.

■ Stolen vehicle, 1995 green Saturn, 300 block East Third.

■ Ongoing investigation, dog at large, 500 block North Mulberry.

BIRTHS

Brock Dawson Wilcox

Kelly and Renee Wilcox, Conception Junction, Mo., are the parents of Brock Dawson Wilcox, born Jan. 9, at St. Francis Hospital, Maryville.

He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and joins two siblings, Blake Garrett and Remington Marie.

Grandparents are Kenneth and Janet Rempe, Superior, Neb.; Dottie and Roy Brown, Stanberry, Mo.; and the late "Shorty" Wilcox.

Great-grandparents are James and LaVeta Hofstetter, Lawrence, Neb.; and Laveta and the late Alphonse Rempe, Hastings, Neb.

Tatum Elizabeth Burson

Lori Farnan, Maryville, is the parent of Tatum Elizabeth Burson, born Jan. 9, at St. Francis Hospital, Maryville.

She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Grandparents are Gregory and Carolyn Meyer, Conception Junction, Mo.

Blunt proposes new spending

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Gov. Matt Blunt projected a sunny state of affairs Wednesday night, declaring Missouri's economy and budget strong a year after he took office and proposing new spending on everything from education to health care to prisons.

Blunt's second State of the State speech drew a sharp contrast to his first, when he proposed wide-ranging government cuts and the elimination of health-care coverage for thousands of poor people to bring into balance a state budget that he said had grown out of control.

"Just one year after we began to work together, the state of the state is strong," Blunt said in remarks prepared for an address to a joint session of the House and Senate. "Today, the sun has risen and Missouri's economy is on the move."

Blunt said his pro-job policies enacted last year by the Republican-led Legislature have resulted in the solid growth of state tax revenues, allowing him to propose a \$20.9 billion state operating budget, an 8 percent increase over this year's expected appropriations.

Unlike last year, not a single government service to Missourians is proposed to be cut, said Blunt's administration commissioner, Michael Keathley. But neither does the budget propose to restore any of the Medicaid cuts enacted last year over the objection of Democrats.

Under Blunt's proposal, the \$6 billion Medicaid pro-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSE SPEAKER Rod Jetton, R-Marble Hill, left, and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, right, applaud Gov. Matt Blunt during his State of the State address Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006, in Jefferson City, Mo. Blunt told a joint session of the General Assembly that, unlike last year, the state of the state is strong.

gram still would receive the largest increase - \$658 million in state and federal funds - and comprise the largest portion of the state budget, 29 percent of the total. Had cuts not been made last year, Blunt said Medicaid would have cost an additional \$935 million.

Embracing the general approach of a legislative committee, Blunt called for a broader overhaul of the Medicaid program, stressing personal responsibility, the elimination of waste and fraud and proposing \$25 million in state funds to improve medical technology.

To try to reduce the number of uninsured, the governor also called for such things as new incentives for employers to provide

health insurance and new tax breaks for those who buy their own insurance.

Blunt proposed a \$167 million increase in state aid to elementary and secondary schools, including \$137 million to fund the full amount called for under a new school funding formula enacted last year.

And he reiterated his support for a proposal that would require school districts to spend 65 percent of their money on items related to student instruction. In response to some hesitant lawmakers and school administrators, Blunt indicated he is willing to expand the proposed definition of what qualifies as classroom expenses.

"I am open to meaningful discussion on this issue, but

the bottom line is that more dollars must be delivered to the classroom," he said.

Among other spending increases proposed by the governor:

• A 2 percent increase for state colleges and universities, bringing their total to \$874 million.

• \$120 million in bonds to replace an old women's prison at Chillicothe with a new, expanded facility. Additional money would open new sex offender units and community supervision centers within the Department of Corrections.

• A 4 percent pay raise for most employees, with larger increases for some state nurses, law officers and prison guards, at a total cost of \$93.6 million. Fringe benefits are included.

Federal prosecutors refuse delay

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

Federal prosecutors are asking a judge to refuse a defense request to delay the trial of a Kansas woman accused of killing a Missouri woman and cutting a baby from her womb.

In a motion filed Tuesday, prosecutors said there has been ample time for Lisa Montgomery's attorneys to prepare.

Lisa Montgomery, 37, of Melvern, Kan., faces trial in April on a federal charge of kidnapping resulting in

death.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Montgomery. She is accused of strangling 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett with a rope on Dec. 16, 2004, at her Skidmore, Mo., home, using a kitchen knife for a crude Caesarean section, then parading the infant around in Kansas as her own.

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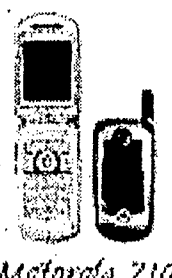
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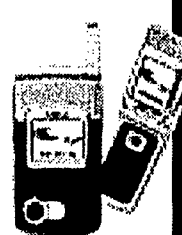
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Admissions rep to run for 4th district spot to be vacated by Lager

By Dennis Sharkey
Co-Editor in Chief

Northwest graduate Brad Lager currently holds the Fourth District state representative spot.

Mike Thomson, current Northwest admissions representative and former Bearcat, hopes he will be the next Bearcat to occupy the position.

Thomson announced his intentions last month to run as a Republican for the spot being vacated by Lager, the former House Budget

Chairman.

Lager had already announced his intention to run for the State Senate Office being vacated by David Klindt, who recently reached term limits.

Thomson, a life long resident of the northwest Missouri area, knows Lager well and has known his family since he was a child.

Thomson knows a lot of people in the area due to his 38 years involved in public education in several different capacities. He has also served on the Northwest

admissions staff for the past eight years.

Deborah Toomey, who works in admissions with Thomson, said he is very valuable to admissions as a recruiter because of his approachable personality. She said it is a genuine part of his personality and not just an act.

"He doesn't come across as a know it all and he responds in ways not to alienate people," Toomey said. "He's not power hungry. He's not the typical kind of person who would be involved in politics."

Thomson, having worked in education for his career, believes education is where everything begins and leads to job growth.

He said this growth would lead to increased revenues and hopefully less taxation.

"Anything that will help improve the University or cause us to do better finan-

cially or create jobs, I'm really for," Thomson said. "That's where the taxes come from and that's when the community and University prospers."

Thomson spent some time before making the decision discussing the details of the job and was encouraged by Lager to put his name in the mix.

Thomson said Lager made him realize the opportunities there were to serve the people of northwest Missouri.

Thomson believes the area is already a great place to live and wants to address concerns, but at the same time embrace the area's strengths and improve on them.

"This is where I live. This is where the people are that I appreciate and love," Thomson said. "My aspirations are to take the opportunities there are, and enlarge those and help northwest Missouri any way I can."

Grandmother granted visitation of child cut from mother's womb

OREGON, Mo. (AP) - A woman who found her 8-months pregnant daughter lying in a pool of blood, her womb slashed open and the baby gone, has been given the right to spend more time with the child.

But Becky Harper will not be able to tell the toddler, Victoria Jo, about the day she was born.

Lisa Montgomery, 37, of Melvern, Kan., faces trial in April on a federal charge of kidnapping resulting in death.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Montgomery, who is accused of strangling 23-year-old Bobbie Jo Stinnett with a rope on Dec. 16, 2004, at her Skidmore, Mo., home, using a kitchen knife to perform a crude Caesarean section.

Victoria Jo was recovered a day later after authorities tracked down Montgomery through e-mails she had sent Stinnett about buying a dog.

Victoria Jo now lives with her father, Zeb Stinnett, in Maitland, six miles south of Skidmore.

Harper reduced the amount of time she could spend with the child because of a falling-out between the two adults. In late July, Harper filed a petition in Holt County Circuit Court

demanding more time with the girl.

Stinnett responded to the petition in August, stating that he only temporarily cut Harper's time because her behavior had become "bizarre," and that she had broken into his house to get some items. Harper has said she did not break in, but had a key and was entitled to her daughter's things.

Under the four-page visitation plan that Judge William Richards approved Tuesday, Harper will be able to visit Victoria Jo one full weekend each month, on various holidays and on extra days in the summer.

The court order also attempts to resolve a dispute over what Victoria Jo should be told about her mother's death.

Stinnett had said in court filings that Harper should "at no time discuss any events concerning the death and demise of her natural mother." Harper has said Victoria Jo will learn what happened to her mother and the person telling her should be her father.

The order states that Harper is not allowed to discuss with the child "any of the events or circumstances concerning the death and demise of her natural mother."

AUTOPSY: Diabetic shock to blame on student death

continued from A1

"Sugar needs to get in the cell," Hurayt said. "The brain needs sugar to survive."

When friend Andrea Richardson, a Northwest sophomore, heard the news she was relieved a medical condition took his life, because she presumed, like so many others, he had committed suicide.

Bussey, a senior computer science major, played on the drum line in the Northwest marching band and is what many describe as a "loner." In fact, almost everyone who

came into contact with him did so because of band.

"He was friendly but kept to himself," said Richardson, who attended high school with Bussey in Cassville, Mo. "I didn't know he was diabetic, but I knew he wasn't feeling good the week he died."

Although he typically kept to himself, those who knew him best describe him as a genuinely nice guy who would do anything for anyone.

"He didn't really smile a lot, but when he did, he lit up the room," Gianino said.



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Changes greet football staff's offseason

By Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

For more than three weeks, Northwest football coach Mel Tjeerdsma tried to decide what would be the best for his offense. After offensive coordinator Bart Tatum parted ways for the head coaching position at MIAA conference rival Missouri Southern Dec. 13, Tjeerdsma had a problem. He had to find a replacement fast before high school recruits started to come in. But Tjeerdsma knew that whoever he found would have to fit well with the Bearcats' prolific

offensive scheme.

"I didn't want a whole lot of change," Tjeerdsma said.

So, on Thursday, Tjeerdsma hired Charlie Flohr. Flohr comes to Northwest after a two-year stint as Truman State's wide receivers coach. He will be the passing game coordinator, receivers coach and recruiting coordinator.

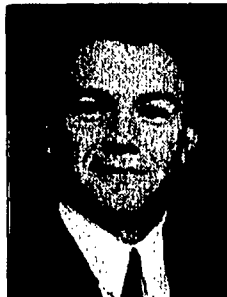
"It allows us to make change," Tjeerdsma said. "He's going to have his challenges at

the position but we're hoping for a smooth transition."

However, Flohr will not take over Tatum's old duties of offensive coordinator. Tjeerdsma decided that he will take care of the responsibility along with coaching.

"I'm looking forward to it; I am excited about it," he said.

Before coaching at Northwest, Tjeerdsma was the offensive coordinator as well as head coach at Austin College in Sherman, Texas.



Charlie Flohr
New assistant coach

The hiring of Flohr also helps the team because he isn't new to the offense. He was a graduate assistant at Northwest from 2002-2003 and coached the tight ends.

"(I've) been in the system before," Flohr said. "... It's definitely a good feeling to come back to Northwest. It's a good move for us."

With the hiring of Flohr and Tjeerdsma's decision to call the plays himself, other coaches on the team's roles have also been affected. Offensive line coach Adam Dorrel also will continue to be in charge of the running game.

Dorrel and Flohr will handle the

game plan while Tjeerdsma will continue to script the practices and call the plays. Former quarterback Josh Lamberson will also provide help for the aerial attack as he will be serving the squad as a graduate assistant.

"It allows us a little more flexibility," Tjeerdsma said about Lamberson's help with the quarterbacks.

Rich Wright will be in charge of special teams, one of Tjeerdsma's old duties, along with his current title of defensive line coach. Secondary coach Will Wagner also becomes the assistant head coach.

see FOOTBALL on B2

Waving a green flag

Teamwork evident in women's victory

By Brendan Kelley
Assistant Sports Editor

The Northwest women's basketball team used a balanced scoring attack and an active defense to run away with a 83-69 victory over MIAA rival Missouri Western on Wednesday night.

The Griffons scored the first basket of the evening, but it would be the only time that they would hold a lead in front of a large crowd of 1,666.

The 'Cats went up 4-2 on a Mandi Schumacher basket with 15:54 remaining in the first half, and never surrendered the lead the rest of the contest.

"I thought we played two pretty consistent halves of basketball," Northwest coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "The two halves were different, but they were intense. Everybody was intense from start to finish."

Northwest shot 51 percent from the field in the first half and capitalized on 13 Western turnovers to run out to a 42-30 lead at the break.

"I felt like we had control the whole time. I didn't ever feel like we were going to lose," senior guard Laura Friederich said. "But, at the same time a good team like that can come back anytime."

The 'Cats kept the heat turned up on the Griffons by shooting 50 percent from behind the three-point line and knocking in another 41 points in the second half. Schumacher and Friederich both scored 20 points in the 14-point victory. Schumacher's 20 points tied her career high.

"I was more intimidated tonight than I have been any other time this year," Schumacher said. "They just totally overplayed so I went from my left to my right hand."

The Griffons played the game without junior guard Tiffany Davis, who was nominated for MIAA player of the week last week after scoring 15 points against No. 3 Emporia State and 25 points against CMSU.

"I don't know what the game would have been like with Davis, but I know we took advantage of her absence and won," Steinmeyer said. "That's what a team has got to do. If you're handed something, you've got to take advantage of it."

The win was a big one for the 'Cats. Moving them to 10-5 overall and 2-2 in the MIAA and putting



LEFT: MANDI SCHUMACHER goes up for a shot during the Bearcats' victory over Missouri Western Wednesday evening. RIGHT: Victor James attempts a shot in the Bearcats' seventh straight victory against the Griffons.



PHOTOS BY MIKE DYE / PHOTO EDITOR

Men's team comes from behind after three-point frenzy

By Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

It took the Northwest men's basketball team a half, but eventually they figured out that not everything they shot from behind the arc would go in.

After shooting four of 13 from behind the three-point line in the first half, Northwest (12-3, 3-1) went on a 14-0 run to pull away from conference rival Missouri Western (10-6, 1-4) 63-48 in front of a season-high 2,152 in attendance at Bearcat Arena.

"I still think you fall in love with that, I think we need to have more post touches," Northwest coach Steve Tappmeyer said. "It's something we've got to address, not just in the game."

The Bearcats came out in the second half, after trailing by four and took the lead after two free throws by Addae Houston and a three-pointer by Mose Howard. Then the 'Cats extended their lead with two straight layups by Matt Withers.

Two more layups, along with a few free throws and a jumper put the 'Cats up 41-29 with less than 12 minutes to go. The Griffons went scoreless until six minutes and 20 seconds into the half.

Western responded with five straight points but Xavier Gaines in his second game back from a shoulder injury hit a three-pointer to stall the run.

Western would close to as many as six points, but another three-pointer, this time by Joel Osborn took the breath out of Western's momentum with just over three minutes left.

"We started to shoot the three, instead of work inside and then work our way back out," Gaines said. "If we get more easy buckets then that means the three-point shot will open up for us. Instead of us settling for the three-point shot we were going to the goal a lot in the second half."

Gaines led all scorers with 16 points and Howard followed with 14. The Bearcats also cleaned up after turning the ball over eight times in the first half, the team only committed five more.

It was the team's seventh straight victory over the Griffons. The Bearcats now play at 3 p.m. Saturday against Missouri Southern in Joplin, Mo.

themselves in position to really turn some heads throughout the league after being picked to finish seventh in the MIAA in the preseason coaches poll.

"It's huge for multiple reason. We're one game out of first place and Western is playing so excellent this year so that's encouraging," Friederich said. "It was fun to get to do it in front of such a big crowd. It felt

good to put two halves together."

After the game, Steinmeyer talked about some of the things that the 'Cats could have done better on both ends of the floor, but he stopped himself before he made it very far. With a smile he said:

"We score 83 points against anybody in the MIAA and I'm waving a flag on the rooftop. A green one, not a white one."

Dokes-less in Maryville

Junior transfer student Talesha Dokes left the women's team over winter break. Coach Gene Steinmeyer said that the reasons Dokes chose not to return to Northwest were personal, but also could have had to do with playing time. She had seen limited playing time for the 'Cats, working in a three-player rotation with Chelsea Ernzen and Mandi Schumacher.

Spoofhounds fall twice at rival's tourney

By Brendan Kelley
Assistant Sports Editor

SAVANNAH, Mo.—The Maryville Spoofhounds tournament woes continued Tuesday night as the 'Hounds fell to the Savannah Savages 51-32 in the Savannah Invitational.

The loss came on the heels of a 59-41 loss to Bishop LeBlond in the first round of the tournament Monday evening.

The Savages used a quick start, good free throw shooting and 21 points from Brock Houston to roll to the 19-

point victory.

"It was a real physical game, they're a scrappy team," coach Mike Kuwitzky said. "He's (Houston) a good player, he's tough inside and he can shoot. He's a good leader for them."

The 'Hounds jumped out to an early 5-2 lead with five minutes left in the first quarter, but that would be the last time that they would hold a lead.

The Savages took an 8-5 lead with 3:53 left in the first and outscored the 'Hounds 11-4 the remainder of the quarter to take a 19-9 lead into the start

of the second quarter.

Savannah used 11 first half points from Houston to take a 31-19 lead into halftime. Garett Arnold pumped in nine for the 'Hounds in the first half.

"We treated it as if we're down by five and we need to come back at halftime," Savannah forward Jason Cockriel said. "We just wanted to make sure that we kept our concentration."

The third quarter didn't treat the 'Hounds any better, as they scored six points and trailed 41-25 at the end of the third quarter.

Savannah added 10 points in the

fourth, and the 'Hounds threw in seven to give the Savages the 19-point victory.

"We knew what they were going to do to beat them," Cockriel said. "We knew that they were going to work hard and we had to work harder and that's what we did."

Savannah kept the 'Hounds in foul trouble most of the night, fouling out Joel Driskell and shooting 72 percent from the line by hitting 24 of 33 attempts. The 'Hounds struggled getting to the line, and ended the night

six of nine from behind the stripe.

Houston used 15 points from the free-throw line to lead all scorers with 21 points. Arnold led Maryville scorers with 14.

"Garett played a really good game," Kuwitzky said. "He shot well and led the team. He was putting pressure on the ball. I was really proud of him."

The 'Hounds (3-9) next chance to turn things around will come on Friday at a time to be announced.

"We just have to keep plugging and fighting, taking everything day by day," Kuwitzky said.

Northwest trainer to be honored among Missouri sports elite

By Jerome Boettcher
Sports Editor

Northwest is lucky athletic trainer David Colt hurt his ankle 30 years ago.

While at West Virginia University in the mid-1970s, Colt, a pre-pharmacy major at the time, played soccer. He injured his ankle and thus was exposed to the world of trainers.

"Going into the training room everyday for my ankle kind of opened my eyes a little bit to what they do," Colt said. "The writing was on the wall, I wasn't going to be a pharmacist. (Athletic training) was just a lot of fun."

Since then, Colt has dedicated nearly 30 years of his life to athletic training. 24 of them as the head athletic trainer at Northwest. For his service, Colt will be inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Plaza Convention Center in Springfield, Mo.

"The University's made up of people and some people have given their lives to this place and Dave Colt is another one of those," Northwest Athletic Director Bob Boerigter said. "He's established his own legacy here, in terms of teaching other educators and preparing other educators for a profession in athletic training."

Colt, a native of Kenmore, N.Y., graduated from West Virginia in 1977 and heard about Northwest through West Virginia's football trainer Bud Tice. Tice had been the athletic trainer at Northwest before he went to West Virginia.

He recommended that Colt attend Northwest so he could earn his masters in education. After he received it in 1978, he then took a job at Temple University in Philadelphia as a trainer. After three years at Temple, Colt came back to Northwest and took over as head athletic trainer after Sandy Miller, who Colt was a graduate

assistant under, left.

Since then, Colt has been in Maryville working for Northwest. Colt, however, said at first he didn't intend to stay here that long. Colt wanted to work his way up from being a trainer at a Division II school, then a head athletic trainer, then work as a head athletic trainer at a Division I school. Finally, he wanted to work in the NFL.

Tice became the assistant athletic trainer at the Buffalo Bills in 1977 so Colt visited Tice and the Bills head athletic trainer when he was home in New York. His visits allowed him to see the differences between the levels.

"The differences really changed my mind," Colt said. "I got enough exposure to that and I don't know about this. You're still doing athletic

training, the competition is still competition. You don't have any 80,000 seat stadiums, you don't have all the pressures, you don't have all the egos ... The perspective is a little better on the Division II level."

After Tice left the Bills, Colt was offered his job.

"I'm pretty happy here ... This size town really fits me, so I stayed," Colt said.

While Colt has been at Northwest he has built strong relationships with many of his peers, coaches, players and students. Along with being the head athletic trainer, Colt also teaches several classes.

"So, there's a long list of people who have gone on to be successful as athletic

trainers that served at his feet while they were here that he mentored and taught," Boerigter said. "In addition to that, they're probably isn't one student athlete, whoever had an ankle taped while they were here, that didn't have it taped by D.C."

One of those people have been strongly affected by Colt is head men's basketball coach Steve Tappmeyer. Tappmeyer came to Northwest as an assistant, the same year as Colt did, in 1981. Since then the two have formed a great friendship. Tappmeyer was even the best man in Colt's wedding.

"I step back and I just respect him. He's such a great person and I think it comes across to our athletes that he cares about them," Tappmeyer said. "(He has) just about everything you want in an athletic trainer, and obviously from a personal standpoint, everything you would want in a friend ... From top to bot-

tom Northwest has just been so blessed to have him here. I think he's won a lot more games than any that's ever coached here, that's for sure."

Colt primarily tends to basketball, whereas his assistant Kelly Quinlan focuses on football. Colt said that he likes to spread out his services so that he does not wear himself out.

Colt will join Northwest legends, Wayne Winstead and Richard Milner, who have been inducted in previous years in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Notables in this year's class include St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa and former Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder.

"It's an awesome thing, when you stop and think that he's going to be up there with Tony LaRussa, amongst others," Boerigter said. "It's very significant and we're very proud of him."



David Colt
head athletic trainer

FOOTBALL: New assistant among offensive changes

continued from 1B

The staff welcomes the positive changes and said they aren't worried about Tjeerdsma's decision to call the plays himself.

"He knows what he is doing and he has already taken steps to dictate out things that he was doing as a head coach," Dorrel said. "... I think he's going to do a great job and I know he isn't going to be any different than any other coordinator that has been here the last two times."

"(He's) going to rely heavily on assistant coaches and

graduate assistants. That's the great thing about keeping it in house, so to speak, those guys know what's going on already."

Tatum actually talked to Dorrel, amongst others, about working for him down at Missouri Southern.

"I thought that at the end of the day it was the best for me to stay at Northwest Missouri State," Dorrel said.

Now the staff turns their attention to recruiting as national signing day is less than a month away on Feb. 1.

The first group of recruits will be on campus Saturday.

UP IN THE AIR



MEGHAN BLAY (right) tries to toss a shot up over a Southwest Baptist defender Saturday. Northwest won the game and will now travel Saturday to play Missouri Southern.

SPORTSBRIEFS

Volleyball coach search continues

The search continues for a new Northwest volleyball coach.

Athletic Director Bob Boerigter said he had numerous interests for the position and hoped a decision would have been made before winter break.

"We're hoping that we can get it wrapped up pretty quick," Boerigter said. "If it takes a little longer, I'm going to take as long as it takes to make sure that we feel good about it."

The vacancy opened up after Lori Slight resigned on Nov. 3 after coaching at Northwest for three years. She left to be closer to her family. Slight had a record of 35-54 during her stay at Northwest. Assistant volleyball coach Andrea King has helped in the process of finding a candidate, but Boerigter declined to comment if King, who is in her first year at Northwest, was also a candidate.

Boerigter said that a candidate had visited the campus Tuesday.

Tjeerdsma president of AFCA

Northwest football coach Mel Tjeerdsma became the president of the American Football Coaches Association Tuesday, in Dallas at the association's annual convention.

The AFCA is the oldest coaching association in the United States and has more than 10,000 members on all coaching levels.

"It's an opportunity to

serve our profession to provide some help to these younger coaches," Tjeerdsma said.

Tjeerdsma was elected by AFCA members during the association's convention this week.

"It's something that Northwest can be very very proud of that our coach is currently the president of that association," Boerigter said.

Gaetti gets votes in Hall of Fame

Former Northwest player Gary Gaetti received four votes on the Baseball Hall of Fame ballot Tuesday. It was Gaetti's first year of eligibility for the Hall after nearly 20 years in the league as a player. Gaetti did not receive five percent of the total votes to stay on future ballots.

Gaetti played shortstop at

Northwest from 1977 to 1979 before playing in the Major Leagues in 1981. In 2003, Gaetti was inducted into the Northwest M-Club Hall of Fame.

"Gary told me that for a good part of his professional career he wore a Northwest Missouri State baseball shirt underneath his uniform," Boerigter said.



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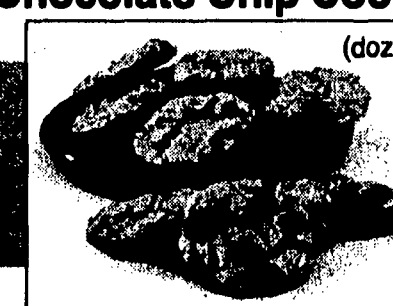
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'Hounds find fouls a problem

By Cali Arnold
Community News Editor

The Maryville girls' basketball team was left wondering what could have been if its leading scorer hadn't spent most of the game on the bench Monday.

Because of fouls, the Spoofhounds leading scorer, Kim Wolfer, sat out much of the second and third quarters. Clarinda used Wolfer's absence to help them win the game 59-37 and caused Maryville to drop to 3-8.

"They don't play as physical up there (Clarinda) as we play," Maryville head coach Adam Willard said. In our conference (Midland Empire) there's always a lot of pushing and bumping and that sort of thing, and up there they don't do any of that. That just got us into foul trouble really quick."

With Wolfer on the bench, Jaclyn Guess was forced to play a position that she hadn't been used to playing. Guess used the situation to her advantage.

"I probably had one of my best games because I was actually shooting," Guess said.

Though Willard said that Clarinda was obviously not one of the better teams Maryville has played this year, he doesn't think they're a bad team.

"We could never get the score under six," Willard said. "We were playing zone, playing man, pressing, sagging off, doing everything we could, but they were just getting a lot of shots to fall. Eventually they just pulled ahead and we could never come back...the foul trouble hurt us."

In their fifth game since Christmas, Wolfer thinks the young team is playing good basketball.

"We used break to really improve and everyone is doing a good job," Wolfer said.

Willard saw some positives with the loss. The aggressiveness and intensity on the offensive end, and the guards and Guess shooting the basketball, were just a handful of the improvements that caught his eye.

Up next for the 'Hounds is the Bishop Miege tournament from Jan. 17-19 in Kansas City.

Maryville is guaranteed three games, the first probably coming against the No. 1 team out of many nationally-ranked opponents that will be present.



MARYVILLE'S CODY GILLENWATER pins Chillicothe's Dustin Murray 38 seconds into the second period. The 'Hounds now set at 1-3 on the season and will be back in action on Saturday.

Wrestlers come up short in dual against conference rival

By Andrew Glover
Chief Reporter

Aggressiveness and effort on the mat were the keys to Maryville's dual meet with Chillicothe. With inexperience on the team, the Spoofhounds knew they would have to overcome it in their match with the Hornets.

Maryville coach Joe Drake knows his team's young age is something his team must overcome.

"We are pretty young in our lineup," Drake said. "We have a few really outstanding kids, but we are pretty young and pretty inexperienced."

Maryville was already losing before their first wrestler even hit the mat; the 'Hounds forfeited their first match due to an opening on their roster.

Maryville didn't get on the board until the 130-pound match when Cody Gillenwater pinned Dustin Murray 38 seconds into the second period. Gillenwater is a returning medalist from last year's squad, and hopes to provide leadership this year.

Momentum played a huge role in the success of the Spoofhound's challenge to get back the points they lost early on.

"Momentum is huge," Drake said, "If you can get

on a roll you can change a lot of things if you get rolling in your favor."

That swing helped the next two Maryville wrestlers pin their opponents.

The first at 135 pounds when Dakota Merrill made quick work of his opponent, Lloyd Jamison, pinning him 59 seconds into the match.

Going into the match, Merrill knew what exactly what he needed to do.

"I needed a pin," Merrill said. "I figured it would be a little tougher, but I knew I needed a pin."

The success carried over into the 140-pound match when Maryville's Tanner Archer pinned his opponent with less than a minute left in the period.

Maryville trailed by just three going into the 152-pound match when the momentum was stalled. Maryville dropped the next two matches going into the 171-pound match, a match that Drake said would be a crucial match for his team to win the dual.

Maryville's Eligio Littrell used a little good fortune and an injury to his opponent, Corey Lowe, to pull out a stunning win. Lowe, who had his arm in a supporter after a shoulder injury, was ahead the entire match. Late in the final period, when he tried to move Littrell, Lowe ended up on his back, leav-

ing Littrell in perfect position to take the pin.

"I made a lot of mistakes in the beginning, but I got lucky and turned it around in the end," Littrell said.

With the momentum back on Maryville's side, Zach Sherry, at 189-pounds pinned Daniel Cummings with just under a minute to go in the first period.

Chillicothe was ahead by just six points with two matches left. Maryville needed to win their 215-pound match up to seal the win, with an opening in Chillicothe's heavyweight spot.

With just under a minute to go in the first period, Maryville wrestler, Andrew Farnan, went down wrong on his leg and was unable to finish his match, giving the Hornets enough to win the dual.

Drake felt that there was a lot of good that came out of the match.

"Everybody was pushing it, being aggressive," Drake said, "The thing that hurt us was losing some really close matches. If we could turn those in our favor it changes the whole outcome."

Maryville (1-3) will be back in action 10 a.m. Saturday Jan. 14, in Plattsburg.

Andy Glover may be contacted at s270230@nwmissouri.edu.

Track teams head to Lincoln after long break

By Brett Barger
Chief Reporter

While students were preparing for finals week and the road trip to Florence, the northwest track teams traveled to Iowa State University for the Iowa State Holiday Open Dec. 9 in Ames, Iowa.

For the women, the Bearcats had two players finish in the top three. Senior Alisha Samuel netted a second place finish in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.82.

Junior Stacey Loemker also finished second in the weight throw with a throw of 14.19 meters. The second place finish for Loemker was her career best in the holiday open. Last year, she placed 16th.

Loemker saw the meet as an opportunity for freshmen to get their feet wet.

"It was a first meet for a lot of them. The meet got us ready for the outdoor season which starts this Saturday," she said.

Other notables were sophomore Halley Carlson with a fifth-place finish in the high jump. Freshman Johanna Avilez also took fifth in the 60-meter hurdles.

Northwest coach Scott Lorek expected his squad to start the year slow then build as the season goes along.

"I was not surprised. I thought we had a solid meet after fall training," he said. "We had a lot of good things."

"I think we showed up

to our potential right about where we were. We had some good strength, good endurance but not a lot of speed, but in December, your not supposed to have great speed."

On the men's side, they finished third overall behind Truman State and Iowa State.

Junior Eric Isley was the only Bearcat to bring home a first place finish for the squad, finishing on top in the 800 meter run. Isley also finished eighth in the 60-meter hurdles.

Sophomore Courtland Ingram finished second in the pole vault to round out the scoring for the Bearcats.

Isley thought the team's performance was satisfactory.

"I think it was good. It kind of gives us a chance to see where we're at and how well fall conditioning went," he said.

The 'Cats next meet will be on Jan. 13-14 at the Holiday Inn invitational in Lincoln, Neb. It will be the first meet for the Bearcats in over a month.

Lorek believes a lot of time off can be a challenge for any track team.

"I think every track coach hates Christmas break, training wise," he said. "It's tough because you do such good work in the fall then you don't see them for three or four weeks."

"Our group had a good workout yesterday. Most of our kids did a real good job over break."

Check nwmissourinews.com for more stories, briefs and columns. Stay tuned for expanded basketball coverage when the teams goes on road.

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Northwest Ford - Lincoln Mercury's

Spotlight Player

Austin Meyer

Austin Meyer has averaged 20 points in his first three conference games. Saturday he scored 15 points in the 'Cats 80-68 upset over No. 7 Southwest Baptist.

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49 / 30

Friday
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44 / 26

Saturday
Take a walk



47 / 36

Sunday
Take out the dogs



51 / 37

Monday
Curl up with a book



43 / 25

Tuesday
Watch a movie



38 / 23

Wednesday
Go shopping



41 / 27

Your Man resolves to continue to stroll



The Stroller

A new semester has begun, and Your Man is back to the grind.

Break was a nice escape from the rigors of academia, but now Your Man is moving slower than Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve commentary.

Clark looked fine, but his speech was only second to Hilary Duff's "singing" on the list of things to avoid next year.

However, New Year's did bring a few benefits, like the reappearance of Jared Fogle, the Subway guy. In an effort to squash rumors of his untimely death under a pile of stale

foot-long subs, Fogle's offering a new inspiration to dieters—pre-recorded phone calls to encourage dieters in the following month.

Your Man knows there's nothing overweight people love more than hearing propaganda from a corporate spokesman, and he thinks this new idea is golden, not unlike a fresh batch of French fries.

Oh, now Your Man needs a phone call.

But seriously, Your Man is sincere in his desire to improve things around here. He's been watching the University as we lose the Baldrige Award for the umpteenth time and the disintegration of the Memorandum of Understanding between Northwest and Ventria Biosciences.

Your Man has watched President Dean Hubbard take disappointing blow after blow and stay firm in his desire to get another site visit from someone...anyone.

After all, what says quality more than cancelling classes for a football

game?

Hubbard should take a page from George W. Bush's book, he doesn't read it anyway, and declare a spreading campus epidemic—avian flu. That'll serve as a perfectly logical smoke screen to hide the University's recent foibles.

Everyone knows that birds carry avian flu, but what if it were to spread to Bearcats? Hubbard's Quality Crisis Response Team (everything that touches him turns to quality) could swoop in to save the day.

Why, the health center could offer to take each student's temperature, for a nominal fee of course, and the tech people could install new virus protection software to protect the electronic campus.

It's so flawless and cutting edge that the Board of Regents should sign a MOU with an interested corporation and begin construction a new facility to house the new program.

After all, it worked with Ventria, right?

No? My bad.

Despite Northwest's recent pitfalls in our trek toward the future, Your Man is optimistic about the new year.

He hopes University officials have made the right resolutions to cut their losses and continue in the tradition of excellence.

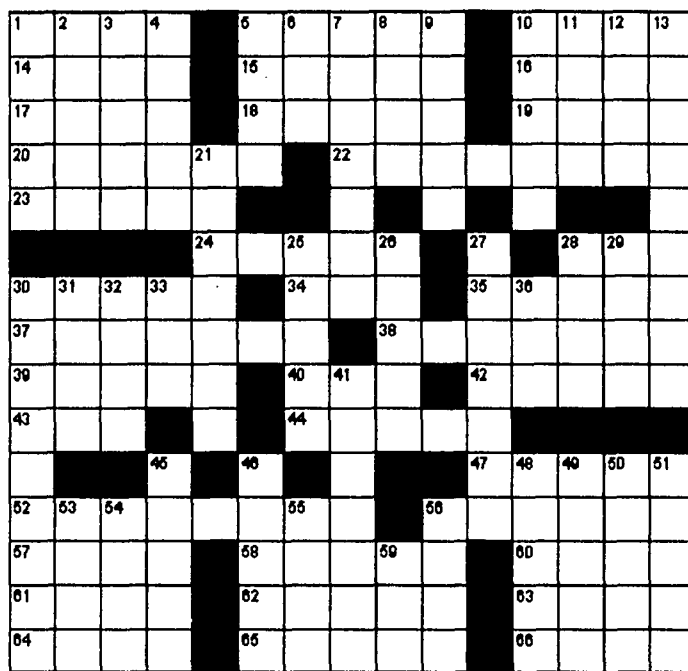
He hopes students have resolved to drink a little less, learn a little more and graduate a little sooner.

As for Your Man, he's resolved to stroll, to observe the daily operations of the University and provide commentary on those issues he thinks are important. And if he can be a little humorous in doing so, even better.

Your Man wishes you the best for the new semester and reminds you again to watch out for the avian flu.

It's everywhere.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.



Across

1. Strikes
5. Celestial body
10. Abbreviated abbreviation
14. Exclude
15. Alert
16. Function
17. Goo
18. Male name
19. Rake
20. Female name
22. Remote
23. Exchange
24. Fermented fruit juices
28. Document
30. Dice game
34. Slippery person
35. Tailless amphibians
37. Pleasing
38. No longer in existence
39. — acid, protein building-block
40. Hue
42. Primitive aquatic photosynthesizing organisms
43. Base of the decimal system
44. Hayseed

Down

1. Fowl shelter
2. Love affair
3. Open Italian pie
4. Place
5. City in NW France
6. Operating late at night
7. Afternoon performance
8. Near-Earth asteroid
9. Male voice
10. Marshal
11. Start
12. Low in spirits
13. Train again (2-7)
21. Paperboy
25. Destitute
26. Streamlined
27. Mortally
28. Manure
29. Grampus
30. Made a confusion of noises
31. Hoar
32. Consanguine
33. Greek god of forests
36. Naught
41. Sang by changing between falsetto and normal voice
45. Confronts
46. Effaced
48. Hebrew dry measure
49. Appraise
50. The Muslim world
51. Persons of great authority
53. 10-year prison sentence
54. Pat
55. Musical composition for one
56. Scottish slope
59. Engineer (abbrev)

Judge ruled teen can be tried as adult in sexual assault case

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) - A 13-year-old accused of taking a 6-year-old from her neighborhood, beating and sexually assaulting her can be tried in adult court, a judge has ruled.

Judge Tom DePriest Jr., with the St. Louis County Family Court, certified Sherman Burnett Jr. on Wednesday to stand trial as an adult.

The judge dismissed charges of kidnapping, assault and forcible sodomy under the juvenile code, and gave county prosecutors 20 hours to charge Burnett as an adult, according to STLtoday.com, the Web site of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The judge said the teen can be tried as an adult for the protection of the commu-

nity, the seriousness of the alleged Nov. 11 crimes and the lack of a long-term treatment facility that Burnett would need for possible rehabilitation as a sex offender.

DePriest heard testimony from a deputy juvenile officer, a psychologist and an official of the Division of Youth Services.

Burnett, who has been in Family Court custody since November, attended the hearing with his parents.

His attorney, Nellie Ribaud, argued that Burnett would be best served if tried as a juvenile.

Police found the victim early the morning after she disappeared. She was barely alive.

Woman, caretaker die in suicide pact

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) -- A 106-year-old widow and her much younger caretaker died together in an apparent suicide pact at the home they shared, police said.

The bodies of Helen Godet and her friend and caretaker of nine years, David Lund, were found Friday along with suicide notes indicating that Lund strangled the woman after she decided she could not take her own life, Inspector Dennis Maffei said Tuesday.

Lund, who was in his early 30s, then swallowed a fatal dose of antifreeze, authorities said. The notes

were dated December 27.

"There are indications that it was going to be a double suicide, but she couldn't force herself to drink the poison, so he killed her and then drank the poison," Maffei said.

Both notes, which were taped to the closed door of a bedroom where the bodies were discovered, were in Lund's handwriting and indicated "that their time had come," Maffei said. Godet apparently signed one note.

However, police were investigating the case as a murder-suicide, he said, adding that a motive was

not immediately known.

"Did she know what she was signing at 106 years old? I don't know," Maffei said. "She was definitely killed at the hands of another, so we have to assume it was a murder."

Witnesses told homicide detectives that Godet -- whose husband died in 1970 and who never had children -- and Lund had been inseparable after meeting nine years ago. Lund slept on the sofa in Godet's house.

"I was told they had a different kind of relationship -- platonic, but affectionate," Maffei said.

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Hostel not worth weight in gore

By Ashley Bally
Features Editor

Over the holiday season only one movie at the box office promised viewers a break from family fun and merriment. Eli Roth's latest endeavor, "Hostel," promised to be that film.

It did not deliver. The plot of the movie is simple and sounds just like every other horror film.

While backpacking across Europe in the hopes of bedding as many women as possible, three buddies end up at a youth hostel that promises to fulfill their every desire. Then, something happens and the tourists find themselves victims of graphic violence and torture at the hands of foreigners.

Anyone that has sat through Roth's previous disaster, "Cabin Fever," know what it is like to be tortured. I find it astounding anyone provided the funding to actually make this film.

The previews claimed "Hostel" to be so terrifying people have had to leave during the film because the shock was too much. I would like to assure my fellow movie-goers that terror from the film is not what sent people running to the exits.

I'm not sure what I liked less about the picture, the horrendous acting, or the unbelievable dialogue. I found myself hoping the characters would just be killed off so that my suffering would end.

During the progression of the film I began to notice a trend. The movie had not settled into a specific genre. At first we experience enough gratuitous nudity that the audience could believe it's a soft-core pornography. Then it changes to a few scenes of gore and torture then quickly into an action-esque revenge rampage sequence. So, what is this movie? I thought it was horror, but I just can't be sure.



I even found myself comparing some sequences to "Eurotrip." Both films have a very similar plot, both end up in Slovakia and neither end up at the original destination. At least we know "Eurotrip" was a comedy.

I must give credit to the promoters of "Hostel." They have done an excellent job attracting people to such a worthless film.

When the previews announced Quentin Tarantino's ("Kill Bill," "Reservoir Dogs") involvement in the production I was filled with hope. I new Roth was the director, but I believed Tarantino might be the guiding force Roth needed. Which also became a let down.

Some critics even claimed "Hostel" to be something of an American homage to Japanese director Takashi Miike ("Audition," "Ichi the Killer") which may be true. Miike however, is infamous for his gore. He is a professional and knows how to do it right. Miike's films push the boundaries of most individuals threshold for gore. Hostel's weak gore scenes are a very sorry comparison to Miike's legendary flicks.

"Hostel" is a very bad film with great promotional strategies. Here's a word to the wise if you want gore, rent "Ichi the Killer," if you want comedy in a foreign land, rent "Eurotrip," either way you'll be much better off and save \$4.

King Kong finally a remake done right

By Ashley Bally
Features Editor

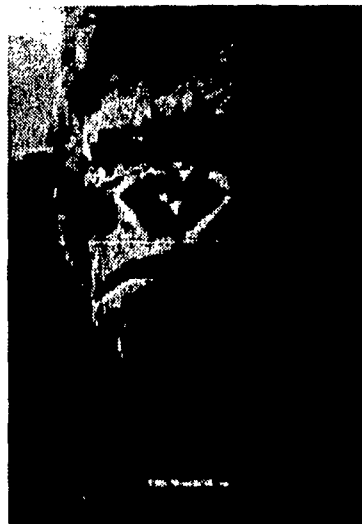
Typical holiday releases frequently include romance, excitement, celebrities, an uncharted island, a primitive tribe, dinosaurs and a giant ape?

This was the best Christmas ever.

Peter Jackson has once again lived up to my expectations with his latest release, "King Kong."

Naomi Watts ("The Ring," "21 Grams") leads an all-star cast in this sci-fi adventure, including Adrien Brody ("The Pianist," "The Village") and Jack Black ("School of Rock," "Orange County.")

The cinematography in this movie was beautiful. From the 1930s New York setup, to the elaborate cre-



ation of "Skull Island," everything seemed to be set on such a grand level.

I sat in the darkened theater and stared up at the screen.

I felt like a kid again, lost in the excitement of the creatures and the mystery of such a strange place.

The acting in the film was a bit exaggerated but I think it com-

mented the fictional and grandeur nature of the film perfectly.

I have seen the original 1933 release and it was impressive how nervous I became for the gentle giant as he escaped into the city in search of Ann (Watts.) Even though I knew how the film would end, I dreaded the

conclusion. I had hoped Kong would face a different type of fate.

I admired how Jackson followed the original film. I am not typically a fan of remakes but Jackson nailed it with this one.

The only complaint I have is the length of the film. There were many scenes that could have been shortened. If a scene is not crucial to the development of the plot then it should be edited out, otherwise audiences quit paying attention.

Jackson is not known for making short films, so we'll just say he's adjusting after "The Lord of the Rings" epic length.

It's hard to stomach the amounts of remakes that seem to be manufactured and shipped into our local theaters.

Just the thought of remakes makes me nervous with the upcoming release of "Superman."

Jackson's "King Kong" is a wonderful way to experience a classic story with the effects that satisfy today's audiences.

Strokes new sound; still off key

By Sean Comer
Opinion Editor

Painfully. Achingly. Dull.

Those three words could suffice to describe the Strokes.

But alas, inches to fill. The Park Avenue posers' third album, "First Impressions of Earth," bears bitersweet fruit, indeed.

Examining the upside, the depressing inability of this band to distance itself from every other instagrand band to soil the cover of SPIN can no longer be ignored. It simply can't be missed.

On the other hand, for reasons only the "Prince of Darkness Himself" probably fully understands, unremarkable spew like this usually ends up on iPod ads within a month.

Anyone else remember the Vines? Jet?

Depending on the track, this latest sacrifice to the gods in hopes of 10 more minutes of hipster-hood resembles either too-bored-to-try-anymore Tom Petty, or a laughable attempt at Rolling-Stones cool.

"Is This It?" only sold so well because the Strokes hadn't yet crafted two other albums that sounded boringly similar.

Well, as they say, timing is everything.

No dynamic exists here that makes this as interesting as, say, a White Stripes album. At least there, Jack and Meg captured a style, sound and general aura nobody could quite duplicate.

However, while frontman Julian Casablancas spent the last year telling everyone how fabulous people used to think he was, and drummer Fabrizio Moretti slobbered over Drew Barry-

more, a slew of sound-alikes arrived and proved to us all why these posers were never that great in the first place.

People listened to the Von Bondies and Jet for a while—then got bored.

Then they went back to the Strokes, and realized they never noticed how dull the Strokes had always been.

On "Heart In A Cage" and "Razorblade," it seems Fab at least learned a new time signature or two, but Casablancas still groans tonelessly about how great it is to be a hipster in love—and without a single interesting thing to say about either hipsters, or love.

Unfortunately, the overall sound feels patterned

after another bunch of guys who, unfortunately for us all, unleashed another phoned-in, unremarkable, less-than-intriguing follow-up to a blockbuster debut, Franz Ferdinand.

Great. KZLX just didn't sound monotonous enough yet. Now the circle feels complete.

It bears repeating that, fortunately, even fewer people will care about the Strokes in about three months.

This is a single-free, hit-free zone with nothing to make anyone want to talk about the Strokes for more than 30 seconds.

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Piles of Memories



A picture is worth a thousand words but can't add up to a lifetime of achievement

By Ashley Bally
Features Editor

Everyone loved Opal Effie Eckert.

It didn't matter how they encountered her. Eckert contributed to the world as teacher, writer, mentor and friend. Her energetic and strong-willed nature left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

"She lived her life to have known that anyone in the world would have been proud of it," Linda Puntney, director of student publications at Kansas State University and former Northwest instructor, said.

Dec. 30 the community mourned the loss of Eckert, she was 100.

Eckert's roots are forever grounded in Northwest history.

As a student she earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in education from Northwest. Later she would earn her Masters of Science in education from Northwest.

She taught English and journalism along with maintaining her position as Director of *The Northwest Missourian*. As a teacher she encouraged students to mind their grammar and to always be accurate.

"Opal was a wonderful lady," said

Terry Pearl, former student and owner of the DeKalb County Record Herald. "She was like a family member to all of us. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be doing what I am today."

According to Sharon Curran, Eckert's niece, she always found a way to make things interesting for her students.

"She always had the students go to a football game and write about the game instead of doing a general assignment," she said. "It was interesting to the students and they learned something."

Eckert's contributions to the University went far beyond the reaches of any classroom.

"She was wonderfully energetic," said Carrol Fry, former English and journalism department chair. "She taught and loved the kids. She organized dinners for them and paid for everything out of her own pocket."

Her generous nature led to the creation of several scholarships. Over the years, Eckert established or assisted in establishing seven scholarships to aid students in achieving higher education. The scholarships included the T.H. Eckert English/Journalism Scholarship, Mildred Eckert Wallace English Scholarship and Opal Calvert Eckert Family Scholarship.

Eckert ended her 52-year teaching career when she retired from Northwest in 1975.

Shortly after retiring, Eckert was awarded the Maryville Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award. Then 1979 she was named Pioneer Educator of Missouri.

Some of her other awards include the U.S. Journalism Teacher of the Year Award, Missouri Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award and was named Journalism Teacher of the Year by the Newspaper Fund, Inc. sponsored by the Wall Street Journal.

In the beginning

She dedicated her life to the world of teaching at a very early age, getting her start at the age of 17 at a rural school. At 22 she moved to the Pickering School District where she taught for one year then became principal for 15 years.

Eckert spent an additional 21 years teaching English and Journalism at Maryville R-II School District.

An eye for the news

Eckert's journalistic habits followed her beyond her career and into her everyday life. According to Curran, Eckert had a habit of correcting everything for grammar. While Curran and Maryilyn Powell,

Eckert's niece, were helping Eckert clean out a closet they came across a box filled with notes that Eckert had corrected.

"She had all of these thank-you notes and letters that we had sent and as she read them she would correct them," Curran said. "She would reword things if they could be said better. She just corrected things so much that it was just something she did."

According to Curran, it was Eckert's influence that contributed to Curran becoming a teacher and her respect of the written word.

"All of her great-nieces and nephews really miss her. She encouraged all of them to go to college and she wanted them to go to Northwest," she said. "I believe she is the reason I became a teacher and I know I got my love of books from her."

Her contributions to the worlds of teaching and journalism will not soon be forgotten. Her legacy will continue to ring through those she taught and those she influenced for many years to come.

"If they have a newspaper in heaven I'm certain she is an editor," Pearl said. "I'm sure God needed a warm-hearted accurate reporter to have called her home."